

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5913

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJ: FAO WORKING PARTY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON BANANAS

FODAG

REF: (A) LETTER OF JANUARY 9 TO R.W. PHILLIPS FROM HULHERIN;

(B) STATE 018059; (C) ROME 1969

1. DATES FOR NEXT MEETING OF WORKING PARTY OF FAO'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON BANANAS KEEP JUMPING AROUND, SEE REFS. NOW FAO IS REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR HOLDING WORKING PARTY IN ECUADOR IN MID-JULY 1976. ACCORDING TO FAO, ECUADOREAN MINISTER TOLD FAO REPRESENTATIVE, MULHERIN, AT FEBRUARY MEETING OF BANANA EXPORTERS IN TEGUCIGALPA OF HIS COUNTRIES' DESIRE TO HOST MEETING.

2. SINCE ECUADOR HAS BEEN BANANA EXPORTER BLOCKING EXPORTER AGREEMENT ON BANANAS, THIS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY ECUADOR HAS BEEN TAKEN AS OPTIMISTIC SIGN BY FAO. AFTER INITIAL IRRITATION VALLEGO, UPEB SECRETARY GENERAL, AND IVORY COAST REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED APPROVAL OF ECUADOR INVITATION. FAO ALSO SEEKING EEC AND UK OPINIONS.

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3. WE ARE AWARE OF USG DISAPPROVAL OF HOLDING UN MEETINGS AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS; BUT SINCE (1) AGREEMENT WOULD PUT OFF MEETING UNTIL AFTER UNCTAD IV; (2) WOULD SEEM TO SET STAGE FOR BEGINNING WORK ON BANANA COMMODITY AGREEMENT, AND (3) WOULD NOT SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGE COST OF U.S. PARTICIPATION. WE RECOMMEND EARLY AFFIRMATIVE REPLY TO FAO.VOLPE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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